

Appl. No. : 09/929,821
Filed : August 14, 2001

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 and 43-51 are pending in this application. Claim 1 has been amended. New Claims 43-51 have been added. Support for the amendment and new claims is found in the specification as filed on page 11, lines 12-19 and lines 22-26.

Applicants would initially like to thank Examiner Menon and Examiner Walker for the courteous telephonic interview extended to Applicants' counsel, Dale C. Hunt and Rose M. Thiessen, on May 27, 2004. Claim 1 has been amended to distinguish Applicants' membranes as claimed from the membranes of U.S. 6,045,899 (the '899 patent). Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, a cellulosic membrane cast from a dope comprising "a nonpolymer nonsolvent ... wherein the nonpolymer nonsolvent comprises from about 20 wt. % to about 55 wt. % of the dope." The '899 patent states at col. 11, lines 44-46, that the quantity of nonpolymer nonsolvent in the dope can be varied from 0.1% through about 10%. Since the presently claimed range of nonpolymer nonsolvent is well outside the range disclosed in the '899 patent, any rejections of the claims based upon the '899 patent should be withdrawn.

The undersigned has made a good faith effort to respond to all of the rejections in the case and to place the claims in condition for immediate allowance. Nevertheless, if any undeveloped issues remain or if any issues require clarification, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicants' attorney in order to resolve such issue promptly.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: June 30, 2004

By: 

Rose M. Thiessen
Registration No. 40,202
Attorney of Record
Customer No. 20,995
(619) 235-8550